



STATE ELECTION REFORMS IN 2021

States are the laboratories of democracy,¹ established to address their citizens' specific and unique needs. State and local election officials are responsible for administering elections for over half a million federal, state, and local races, plus statewide and local ballot measures.² That responsibility extends to implementing election laws that ensure legal residents can register to vote and that votes are correctly counted and secure. Election integrity is particularly important as the country emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, during which many temporary and experimental voting processes were hastily put in place.

While many states are passing commonsense election integrity reforms, Congressional Democrats in Washington continue to advocate for federalizing elections to unfairly stack the deck in their political favor. Such a federal power grab over election administration would subvert the duties of state legislatures established by Article I, Section 4, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution.³

States have always updated their election laws and procedures to address changing needs and utilize new security technology. For example, between the 2000 and 2020 elections, the State of Florida made more than 80 changes to its statutes and regulations governing elections.⁴

The following chart captures election integrity reforms that states have passed in 2021.⁵ Many states continue to work on reforms and several more are expected to be adopted during 2022 legislative sessions.

	Absentee/ Mail-In Voting Security	Early In- Person Voting Reforms	Voter ID and Other Integrity Measures	Limiting Outside Groups Funding Elections	Poll Place, Machine and Drop Box Security	Expand Poll Watcher Access and Increased Transparency	Improving Accuracy of Voter Rolls and Registration	Vote Tabulation and Post- Election Audits	Election Official Integrity
Alabama	*				*	*	*	*	
Arizona	*	*		*	*	*	*		*
Arkansas	*		*	*	*				*
Florida	*				*				
Georgia	*		*	*	*	*		*	*
Idaho	*	*		*				*	*
Indiana	*		*	*					
Iowa	*				*				
Kansas	*			*	*				
Kentucky	*	*	*		*			*	
Louisiana	*	*					*		
Maine	*							*	
Montana			*		*	*	*	*	
Nebraska							*		
New						*	*	*	

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Hampshire									
North Dakota	*		*	*					
Oklahoma	*						*	*	
South Dakota	*							*	
Tennessee				*					
Texas	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*
Utah	*						*		
Wisconsin						*			
Wyoming			*						

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¹ *New State Ice Co v. Liebmann*, 286 U.S. 262 (1932).

² David Nir, The Daily Kos, “Just how many elected officials are there in the United States? The answer is mind-blowing,” March 29, 2015. <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2015/3/29/1372225/-Just-how-many-elected-officials-are-there-in-the-United-States-The-answer-is->

³ Jacob Schallus. The Constitution of the United States: A Transcription. National Archives. May 4, 2020. <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript>

⁴ The James Madison Institute. (2021) *Restoring Trust and Security in Florida Elections From Bush v. Gore to Covid-19*

⁵ Chart compiled by RPC using data from <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/2021-election-enactments.aspx>, <https://www.wibw.com/2021/05/03/lawmakers-override-governors-veto-on-pair-of-elections-law-bills/>, <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/2021/10/18/bipartisan-election-laws-kentucky-prove-red-state-gripes-biased/6103597001/>, and <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/kentucky-election-reforms-bipartisan/>.